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MEMORIAL EXERCISES

IN HONOR OF

ALUMNI WHO FELL IN THE EUROPEAN WAR

Alumni Day, June 17th, 1919

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ALUMNI MEMORIAL EXERCISES

READING OF NAMES OF ALUMNI FALLEN IN THE GREAT WAR

By T. W. Reed, '88, Registrar

The University of Georgia has endeavored to compile a complete and correct roster of her gallant boys who made the supreme sacrifice, and on this occasion expresses the hope that no name has been omitted from the list of her immortal dead in whose memory the services of today are held, and that upon her service flag it may not be necessary to place a single additional golden star.

Class of 1880

Frederick Grady Hodgson.

Class of 1887

Rufus Benjamin Clarke.

Class of 1907

Henry Lee Jewett Williams

Class of 1908

Clarence Hull Dobbs, S. Guy Strickland.

Class of 1910

James Alpheus Anderson
Eralbert Talmadge Miller

Class of 1912

James Allan Etheridge
Roy Edgar Lanham
Wilbur Oglesby

Class of 1913

Allen Randolph Fleming
Joseph N. Neel
James Thorpe Rayle

Class of 1914

Calvin George
Walter Hill Levie
Allen Napoleon Kieffer
Macon Caldwell Overton
Paul Thomas Settle

Class of 1915

Chester Price Adair
Covington Drane Jenkins
Carl P. Goldsmith
Justus Erwin Owens
Robert Jenkins Griffith
Wilbur Stuart Sewell
Percival Connally Jones
Young Hall Smith

Class of 1916

Henry Warren Brown, Edwin David Shaw, Trygve J. Tolnas.

Class of 1917

Tom Reed Beazley
Elliott Muse Braxton
Howell Burnett Cobb
Beverly Daniel Evans
Yoel Lyons Joel
Edmund Brewer Tate
Marion Footman Wilson
Hugh Miller Willett

Class of 1918

Robert James Cochran
John Leon Derrick
Robert H. Leonard

Class of 1919

Paul Bryan Minter.

Brave sons of Georgia, loyal, true, faithful to every duty, who in the spirit of service and sacrifice exemplified the teachings of their Alma Mater; who measured to the full stature of royal manhood and laid their lives upon the altar of liberty in order that all men might be free indeed; who illustrated upon the ensanguined battlefields of the great war the unsurpassed valor of American manhood and wove around the khaki uniform of the American soldier the fadeless glories of immortality; in their honor the institution they loved so well holds today these memorial services, with pride in their achievements, gratitude for their services, and in affectionate memory of those whose blue stars on our service flag have mellowed into gold.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Charles Murphey Candler, Class of 1877

Gentlemen of the Alumni Society,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are assembled today in this historic temple to do reverence to the memories of heroes who tho' dead still live.

I wish that one worthier of the occasion and better fitted to give expression to your tribute had been chosen.

When the torch of war was lighted in the Balkans a little less than five years ago, we of this country reckoned not of the possibility of the conflagration involving us.

But for some irritating incidents with an almost irresponsible neighbor upon our southern border, we had no quarrel with any nation and were at peace with the world.

Confident in our continental isolation and in our freedom from political entanglements of any character with the nations of the world, for more than a century we had grown great and continued happy in the pursuit of our national purposes and the attainment of our national aspirations.

We had established the most powerful Democracy the world had ever known and had demonstrated that government of the people, by the people and for the people was both desirable and possible.

But in our national thought and life we had failed of the realization of a great truth which was to influence our destiny. It is a divinely enunciated truth that no man liveth unto himself alone.

We know now that no nation liveth unto itself alone.

With the outbreak of the great war our government promptly proclaimed its strict neutrality.

For more than two and a half years we maintained this declaration in spite of multiplying complications and deliberate disregard of our national rights.

Under the leadership and compulsion of the autocratic and militaristic rulers of Germany, the central powers, in their conduct of the war grew more insolent, day by day, in defiance of international law and in the violation of the most elementary principles of civilization and humanity.

The appeals and protests of an outraged world were alike in vain.

Peace and right were at stake; selfish and autocratic power the self-appointed executioner.

On April 2nd, 1917, the President of the United States declared before Congress that "neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its people, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments, backed by organized force which is

controlled wholly by their will, not the will of their people. We have seen the last of neutrality in such circumstances.

"We are at the beginning of an age in which it will be insisted that the same standards of conduct and responsibility for wrong done shall be observed among nations and their governments that are observed among the individual citizens of civilized states.

"The world must be made safe for Democracy.

"Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty.

"We have no selfish ends to serve, we desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when these rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them."

In concluding this great message, he said:

"It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

"But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world at last free.

"To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortune, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.

"God helping her, she can do no other."

Such was our cause.

On April 6, 1917, the Congress declared the existence of a state of war with Germany, and the call went forth, A Nation to Arms.

The records of all the nations in all the wars of the world's history will be searched in vain for a parallel to the accomplishment of our country in raising, training, and equipping within eighteen months an army of four millions of freemen, with two millions of them safely across three thousand miles of ocean, not merely facing in battle line, but day by day driving back to new positions the seasoned veterans of the most powerful military nation of the old world.

They said our boys could not fight. The answer was written for all time at Cantigny, Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood, along the Marne, across the Hindenburg, at St. Mihiel, and thro' the tangled forest of the Argonne, to the very gates of Sedan. They never failed to take an objective, altho' in some instances requiring sev-

eral efforts, nor to hold one finally taken, when ordered so to do.

Within one hundred and ten days after the first engagement of units of our Army, the tide of battle had turned and the first and last world war had been victoriously ended.

Excluding students enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps and in special detachments trained upon the University campus, 1,663 men who had taken regular courses in the University of Georgia answered their country's call and laid their all upon its altar. Of these, forty-two made the supreme sacrifice.

These brothers of ours were neither mercenaries nor conscripts.

They loved liberty; they loved their country. They were patriots by heredity and by inspirational training.

Their forefathers had helped to implant upon this continent a new nation, and to build here a structure in which liberty might safely dwell forever.

In the halls of this revered institution, chartered by the state almost with its own birth and dedicated to the education of its sons that they might better serve, these young men had been trained in an atmosphere of patriotic service and historic traditions.

A soldier boy of France lay upon a hospital cot grievously wounded. His right arm had been torn and shattered by a German shell.

As he came to consciousness after its removal, the sympathetic surgeon standing by, moved to pity as he looked upon his maimed form, said, "My boy, I am sorry you had to lose your arm."

The spirit of France flashed into the boy's eyes and raising his head he answered, "Doctor, I did not LOSE my arm, I GAVE it—to France," and as his head sank wearily upon the pillow, he whispered, "My France."

These boys of ours whose memories we hold sacred and will honor so long as sacrificial service is counted glorious, did not LOSE their lives—they GAVE them—to their country—that righteousness in the world, through it, might be enthroned for all time.

It is said that upon a certain occasion in ancient Rome in a gathering of noble women at the home of Cornelia, a wealthy companion lady made show of her priceless jewels, and finally entreated her hostess that she afford her friends a sight of hers.

The noble Cornelia sent for her two sons and presenting them to the assembled company, said: "These are my jewels."

With like pride and love their Alma Mater today presents her patriot sons. They are her jewels.

Heroism never dies, and their careers of service and sacrifice, illustrating and incarnating the spirit and teachings of this venerable institution, will inspire and provoke to higher endeavor the coming generations of students who shall walk this campus and fill these halls. Unless this be true, what we say and do here today would matter little, and their sacrifices have been in vain.

They—each, did a man's part in the great endeavor; they are dead; they rest beyond the sunset's glow.

They have left to us the high and solemn duty of seeing that since the victory is won, the cause for which they died shall not be betrayed.

"If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep
Tho' poppies blow
In Flanders' fields."

In this solemn hour, in this temple dedicated in the name of the Prince of Peace, it is our privilege as it should be our high purpose to consecrate ourselves afresh to the cause for which these boys fought and died.

The battle has ended; the cannon are silent; the fire of rifle and machine gun has ceased—but the contest is still on.

National greed and selfishness, the lust for territory and the desire for power, are still existent and notwithstanding the cruel suffering and immense sacrifices brought upon the world by their past orgies, evidences of their existence and renewed intriguing are seen even at the peace table at Versailles.

These were the things that moved militaristic Germany to war against the world.

They are the things which have provoked wars throughout the history of the human race.

They are the things which trample upon right, violate law, despise liberty and outrage humanity.

They are the things to defeat which our boys crossed the seas and died.

To allow them now, after all the bloodshed and suffering and sacrifice of the past five years, to reappear and resume sway in the governments of the world would be a crime, the adequate punishment of which would call for the exercise of every power of God Almighty Himself.

The peoples of the world—the common masses of mankind, are sick of war. They will have no more like that through which we have just passed.

They purpose to uproot and destroy every seed which can again provoke it. This will be done only when righteousness is recognized by governments as a rule of conduct; when a code of laws is provided clearly defining and prescribing righteous rules of conduct between nations, and when there is established by concerted action of the civilized nations of the world a duly empowered international tribunal, with instrumentalities and methods for compelling the observance of such laws and rules.

Three years ago I had the honor of delivering the baccalaureate address to the Class of 1916. Some of the young men of that class are in France today. Some are in this audience, at least one of

whom I know shed his blood on French soil. Three gave their all in the service of country.

In that address I said: "The problem of the world is the preservation of the rights and liberties of independent nations, and the everlasting establishment of righteousness among nations, and peace on earth. This great country of ours has and should have a responsibility and a part in the solution of this world problem.

"I am not unmindful of our ancient policy, adhered to since its first declaration by Washington, of avoiding alliances with other nations, particularly those of the old world. The avoidance of entangling alliances should not, however, lead us into the adoption of a theory of isolation, and monastic separation from all part and interest in world affairs. Such isolation is unwise and inexpedient, if not impossible. . . . . .

"We must recognize more fully than we do that the United States is a member of the great family of nations, and be prepared to meet the demands and the crises arising out of such membership and kinship."

Within ten months after these words were spoken we were taking part in the great struggle.

It was a glorious part, made so by the endurance and bravery of our young citizen armies.

Having gone thus far at such cost, shall we falter now, or abandon our task?

To do so would be to betray humanity; would be to make vain the sacrifices and to dishonor the memories of 70,000 American boys who sleep on the glory fields of France.

A few months ago the French Chamber of Deputies declared in formal resolution, "President Wilson has deserved well of humanity."

The French Chamber spoke the simple truth.

For six long, weary months we have watched this great American President, this friend of humanity, standing almost alone, contending with all the sinister forces of national greed, selfishness, and jealousies, in patient, tireless, skillful effort to write in enduring form the principles for which America fought and to firmly secure for all posterity that peace for which her sons so gloriously died.

I know not how you feel, but as for me, my very blood boils with indignation when I see the miserable, jealous play of petty politics in our own land and the carping, nagging criticism which seeks, for partisan purposes, to defeat his efforts in behalf of humanity and to destroy that which has been born out of such travail and sacrifice.

I know not what the end will be of all this plotting and intrigue, but I predict woe unto that politician or political party which shall stand in the way and hinder the world's high endeavor to insure forever the freedom of mankind.

It was for this our fellow alumni gave their all, and as we are

gathered here today to do honor to their memories, let us kindle anew the fires of patriotism and reconsecrate ourselves to the completion of their glorious undertaking.

We are all familiar with that splendid epic by Col. McCrae, "In Flanders Fields."

Have you read the eloquent response penned by one of our number, Robert W. Lillard of the Class of 1899?

"Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders dead;
The fight that ye so bravely led
We've taken up. And we will keep
True faith with you who lie asleep,
With each a cross to mark his bed,
And poppies blowing overhead,
Where once his own life blood ran red;
In Flanders Fields.

"Fear not that ye have died for naught,
The torch ye threw to us we caught,
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And Freedom's light shall never die!
We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders Fields."

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